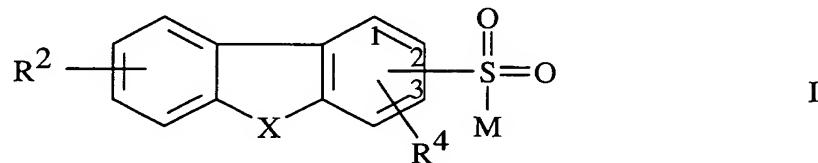


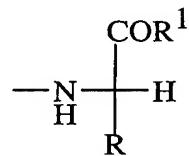
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating multiple sclerosis, the method comprising
administering to a patient having multiple sclerosis a therapeutically
5 effective amount of a compound of Formula I



wherein M is a natural (L) alpha amino acid derivative having the structure



X is O, S, S(O)_n, CH₂, CO, or NRQ;

10 RQ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or -C₁-C₆ alkyl-phenyl;

R is a side chain of a natural alpha amino acid;

R¹ is C₁-C₅ alkoxy, hydroxy, or -NHOR⁵;

R² and R⁴ are independently hydrogen, -C₁-C₅ alkyl, phenyl -NO₂,

halogen, -OR⁵, -CN, -CO₂R⁵, -SO₃R⁵, -CHO, -COR⁵,

15 -CONR⁵R⁶, -(CH₂)_nNR⁵R⁶, -CF₃, or -NHCOR⁵;

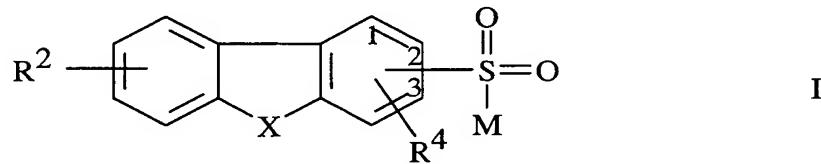
each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently hydrogen or C₁-C₅ alkyl; and

n is 0 to 2, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and amides thereof, wherein the esters thereof are selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl esters, C₅-C₇ cycloalkyl esters, and arylalkyl esters and the amides thereof are

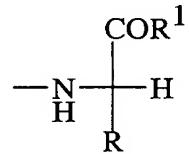
derived from ammonia, primary C₁-C₆ alkyl amines, secondary C₁-C₆ dialkyl, and 5- and 6-membered heterocyclic amines containing one nitrogen atom; and wherein the group S(=O)₂M is optionally bonded to the 1-, 2-, or 3-position of Formula I.

5

2. A method of treating arthritis, the method comprising administering to a patient having arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I



10 wherein M is a natural (L) alpha amino acid derivative having the structure



X is O, S, S(O)_n, CH₂, CO, or NR^Q;

R^Q is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or -C₁-C₆ alkyl-phenyl;

R is a side chain of a natural alpha amino acid;

15 R¹ is C₁-C₅ alkoxy, hydroxy, or -NHOR⁵;

R² and R⁴ are independently hydrogen, -C₁-C₅ alkyl, phenyl -NO₂,

halogen, -OR⁵, -CN, -CO₂R⁵, -SO₃R⁵, -CHO, -COR⁵,

-CONR⁵R⁶, -(CH₂)_nNR⁵R⁶, -CF₃, or -NHCOR⁵;

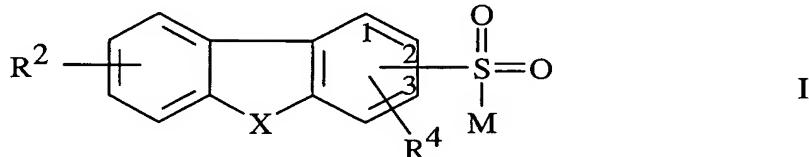
each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently hydrogen or C₁-C₅ alkyl; and

n is 0 to 2, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and amides thereof, wherein the esters thereof are selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl esters, C₅-C₇ cycloalkyl esters, and arylalkyl esters and the amides thereof are derived from ammonia, primary C₁-C₆ alkyl amines, secondary C₁-C₆ dialkyl, and 5- and 6-membered heterocyclic amines containing one nitrogen atom; and wherein the group S(=O)₂M is optionally bonded to the 1-, 2-, or 3-position of Formula I.

5

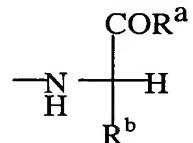
3. A compound of Formula I

10



I

wherein M is a natural (L) alpha amino acid derivative having the structure



X is S, S(O)_n, CH₂, CO, or NRQ;

R^b is a side chain of a natural alpha amino acid;

15 R^a is C₁-C₅ alkoxy, hydroxy, or -NHOR⁵;

R² and R⁴ are independently hydrogen, -C₁-C₅ alkyl, phenyl -NO₂,

halogen, -OR⁵, -CN, -CO₂R⁵, -SO₃R⁵, -CHO, -COR⁵,

-CONR⁵R⁶, -(CH₂)_nNR⁵R⁶, -CF₃, or -NHCOR⁵;

each R⁵ and R⁶ are independently hydrogen or C₁-C₅ alkyl; and

n is 0 to 2, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and amides thereof, wherein the esters thereof are selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl esters, C₅-C₇ cycloalkyl esters, and arylalkyl esters and the amides thereof are derived from ammonia, primary C₁-C₆ alkyl amines, secondary C₁-C₆ dialkyl, and 5- and 6-membered heterocyclic amines containing one nitrogen atom; and wherein the group S(=O)₂M is optionally bonded to the 1-, 2-, or 3-position of Formula I.